

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A method of controlling a social network access control list (ACL) for a shared  
2 resource, comprising:  
3                 monitoring communications to and from a user;  
4                 determining social network data from the communications to and from the user;  
5                 determining an access level for the user based on the social network data; and  
6                 configuring the access control list to provide the user the access level determined  
7 for accessing the shared resource.

1           2.     The method according to claim 1, wherein the communications are e-mail  
2 communications.

1           3.     The method according to claim 1, wherein the social network data includes at  
2 least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction for a time period,  
3 a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and resources attached to  
4 the communications.

1           4.     The method according to claim 1, wherein the access level is selected from the  
2 group consisting of a read-only access, a read/write access, an execute access, a create access, an  
3 owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control access.

1           5.     The method according to claim 1, wherein the access control list includes a user  
2 identification and the access level for the user.

1           6.       The method according to claim 1, wherein the resource is at least one of a file, a  
2   directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.

1           7.       A social network utilizing an access control list (ACL) for a shared resource,  
2   comprising:  
3               a social network monitor to monitor communications to and from a user, and to  
4   determine social network data from the communications to and from the user; and  
5               a social network access controller to determine an access level for the user based  
6   on the social network data, and to configure the access control list to provide the user the  
7   access level determined for accessing the shared resource.

1           8.       The social network according to claim 7, further including a shared resource  
2   provider to provide to the user access to the shared resource based on the access control list.

1           9.       The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network monitor and  
2   the social network access controller reside on a single system.

1           10.      The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network monitor and  
2   the social network access controller reside on separate systems.

1           11.      The social network according to claim 7, wherein the communications are e-mail  
2   communications.

12. The social network according to claim 7, wherein the social network data includes at least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction for a time period, a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and resources attached to the communications.

13. The social network according to claim 7, wherein the access level is selected from the group consisting of a read-only access, a read/write access, an execute access, a create access, an owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control access.

14. The social network according to claim 7, wherein the access control list includes a user identification and the access level for the user.

15. The social network according to claim 7, wherein the resource is at least one of a file, a directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.

16. A communications system having a shared resource, comprising:  
a computer-readable medium; and  
computer-readable program code, stored on the computer-readable medium,  
adapted to be loaded and executed on the communications system, the computer-readable code performing,  
monitoring communications to and from a user,  
determining social network data from the communications to and from the  
user;

9 determining an access level for the user based on the social network data,  
10 and  
11 configuring an access control list to provide the user the access level  
12 determined for accessing the shared resource.

1 17. The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the communications  
2 are e-mail communications.

1 18. The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the social network  
2 data includes at least one of identities of the user and a second user, a frequency of interaction  
3 for a time period, a chronology of the communications, a topic of the communications, and  
4 resources attached to the communications.

1 19. The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the access level is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a read/write access, a write-only access, an execute access,  
3 a create access, an owner access, a no access, an all access, and a control access.

1 20. The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the access control list  
2 includes a user identification and the access level for the user.

1 21. The communications system according to claim 16, wherein the resource is at  
2 least one of a file, a directory, a user, an input/output device, and a computer system.